

News Release



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Peter Hansen Named as Project Consultant For Railroad Technology Museum Project

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Railroad expert Peter Hansen has been named as project consultant for the Railroad Technology Museum, an expansion of the popular California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento which is part of California State Parks. His position, which is effective July 1, 2011, has been added by the California State Railroad Museum Foundation to assist California State Parks in the development of the project.

Hansen has a long and impressive background as a rail historian, exhibit curator, lecturer and writer. His extensive work history includes serving as editor and publisher of *Railroad History* -- the journal of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society -- for the past four years, and also as a correspondent for *Trains* magazine. In addition, he has 14 years of experience and progressive project management responsibility with Sprint, which culminated in the construction of a \$25 million, 20,000-square foot briefing center at the corporate headquarters of this telecommunications firm.

“Peter Hansen brings an accomplished resume of business experience, along with a grasp of history and museum audience psychology that we believe will be extremely useful as the Railroad Technology Museum project moves forward,” said Catherine Taylor, District Superintendent for Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks. “California State Parks is delighted that the Railroad Museum Foundation has selected such a qualified candidate to help lead the development efforts of this noteworthy museum development project.”

“For over a decade, the Railroad Technology Museum has been planned to occupy two historic structures in the Downtown Sacramento Railyards,” said Robert Slobe, Board Chairman for the CSRM Foundation. “With the project poised to move forward this year, the Railroad Museum Foundation Board has made a bold decision. This is an important project for all of California and the United States, and one that is critical to the future of the Downtown Sacramento Railyards and the preservation legacy of the Capital City as well.”

The Railroad Technology Museum Project Consultant position is funded by the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, organized in the late 1980s to raise and manage funds and assist California State Parks in the operation of the California State Railroad Museum, widely regarded as North America's most popular railroad museum. Included in the original 1970s master plan for the California State Railroad Museum, the Railroad Technology Museum -- when completed -- is expected to increase visitation at the California State Railroad Museum complex to nearly one million annually.

The present-day California State Railroad Museum is home to 21 meticulously restored locomotives and cars and numerous exhibits that illustrate how railroads have shaped people's lives, the economy, and the unique culture of California and the West. The Railroad Technology Museum will add a whole new set of experiences and dimensions, showcasing the ingenuity, science and engineering of the railroad. Housed in some of the West's most significant industrial heritage structures, this new museum will combine the hands-on interactive experiences of a science museum with a factory tour unlike any other, and look not just at the past but also to the future of railroads and high-speed rail in tomorrow's world.

As the Railroad Technology Museum project progresses, new information will be available at www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org.

About the California State Railroad Museum

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org or call (916) 445-6645.